

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. *R-7***INFORMANT** **CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY India

SUBJECT Calcutta Labor Unions

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

DATE DISTR. 2 November 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in Calcutta has its offices at 49 Bowbazar Street. Its president is Kinal Kanti Bose, and Dr. Profulla Chandra Ghose, ex-premier of West Bengal, was formerly closely associated with this organization and is still a patron.
2. The Tramway Worker's Union is a Communist-dominated union and is affiliated with the AITUC. Its president is Mohammed Ismail, who was an ordinary mechanic in the Nonapukur Tramway Workshop, but who has given up this former occupation since assuming the presidency. He is now wanted by the police but has gone underground. Ismail is poorly educated, but a man of common sense who possesses a large following. The secretary of the union is Dhiren Mozumdar, who is also wanted by the police. Mozumdar is only slightly educated, was formerly a ticket collector on a tram, and, like Ismail, has gone underground. The union is now run by the assistant secretary, Kalipada Banerjee, a conductor.
3. Another tramway union is the Tram Mozdur Panchayat, which works in close conjunction with the Tramway Worker's Union, is sponsored by the socialists, and was originally founded by the Tramway Authorities in an attempt to undermine the power of the Tramway Worker's Union. The president of the Tram Mozdur Panchayat is Bhudaneswar Tewari; the secretary, Baliraj; the principal adviser is Aswini Gupta. Gupta illegally impersonated a student whom he was coaching for an examination at University Hall, and as a result had his Master of Arts degree rescinded. Gupta is a favorite of Dr. Profulla Ghose, the ex-premier of West Bengal, is an intelligent man of about forty years of age, but is reputed to possess many bad habits.
4. The Imperial Bank of India Staff Association is headed by Sourendra Nath Tagore. The vice president is Birendra Nath Banerjee who also acts as the representative of the bank clerks. The secretary is Jyoti Ghose, a bank clerk.
5. The Dipti Harrigan Manufacture Company Worker's Union was originally formed by the C.K. Sen family, proprietors of the Jabakusum Hair Oil Company. The union has since become a violent organization which has driven its original employers out of business, committed crimes of violence, and hired the services of two local thugs who often work for the Communist Party. These

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	#	NAVY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTRIBUTION					
ARMY		X AIR							

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
18-Nov-2009**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

two use the assumed names "Vanu" and "Jaga".

6. Though the Amrita Bazar Patrika Press Worker's Union is affiliated with the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), it is reported to be strongly influenced by Communist elements. The president of the union is Mrs. Bina Bhowmik, member of the Legislative Assembly, West Bengal Congress, who acquired her fame as a political worker during her student days as the first woman student to agitate against British rule. At a meeting at Calcutta University, she brought a revolver and fired several shots at the then governor of Bengal, Sir Stanley Jackson; because of this, she was deported for fourteen years. She is presently playing a major part in the strikes and other difficulties the Amrita Bazar Patrika has encountered for the past few months. Though she has followed closely the Communist Party line, it is not known whether or not she is a party member.

Comment: The Morning News on 4 September reported the arrest of Mrs. Bhowmik and thirteen others under the West Bengal Security Act for acts of violence in connection with Amrita Bazar Patrika employees. The Amrita Bazar Patrika carried an article on the same subject in which Pandit Ravi Shanker Shukla, Premier of the Central Provinces and Berar, in commenting on the violence indulged in by the dismissed workers of the Patrika, branded the leaders of these workers as Communists.)

7. Though most of the workers of the Bata Company in Calcutta are Communists, their union, the Bata Worker's Union, is affiliated with the INTUC. In addition to Communist influence, there is also a Socialist group active in this union. The president is Dr. Suresh Chandra Bannerjee who was recently elected president of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. Bannerjee was formerly a member of Aphoy Ashram. The vice president is Moor Mohamad, and the secretaries are Tejen Bosu and Nikhil Bosu. The Bata Company, though originally entirely Czech-owned, is now two-thirds Indian-owned. Among the Indian shareholders are the notable figures Khaliten and Snehansu Acharya. The latter comes from the illustrious family of the Maharaja of Mymensing. Snehansu has a brilliant academic career, but his politics are far to the left, a far cry from the conservative leanings of his family. He was the leader of the last strike at the Bata Company. Snehansu is very popular with the Communist workers at the Bata Company.

CONFIDENTIAL